

## **Specialist Playscheme Arrangements Summer 2023**

Telford and Wrekin Council offer a number of playschemes over the summer holidays and will share the details of these when they are available.

One of these playschemes is the specialist playscheme specifically for children with high and complex levels of disabilities.

A partnership of people are working hard to deliver this summer's specialist playscheme including: The Children with Disabilities Team, My Options, Bridge School Head and Willow Tree Head.

We have some updates to share with you.

- The Bridge School requires extensive maintenance works (this is out of the control of the Bridge School) that can only be undertaken during the summer school holidays, and means the Bridge School will not be available to use for the specialist playscheme. We are delighted to tell you that we will be using The Willow Tree Centre in Wellington. This is a specialist, purpose built centre that will provide a suitable environment, with the facilities that our children and young people require.
- We intend the specialist playscheme to run for 4 weeks in the summer holidays
- Each day will be 10am – 3pm
- A lunch will be provided
- We expect that everyone who can currently access the playscheme will continue to do so based on their current need.
- Places are allocated by the Children with Disabilities team, to children with highly specialist and complex needs that are not able to access other playschemes
- Places are allocated on basis of need and not school attended
- Transport is not provided (will only be considered on an exceptional basis)
- There is no charge to families

We want to reassure families of children with high and complex needs that we understand how important the specialist playscheme is to you in providing much needed respite and support over the school summer holidays.

We recognise that alternative arrangements, although essential, will mean change for everyone and we want to support you through this. This is an exciting opportunity to develop the playscheme and ensure better planning year on year.

We are working hard to deliver a high quality offer that young people will enjoy, including a range of activities and outside play.

**Statement from My Options Young People Services:** *Whilst My Options have enjoyed delivering the playscheme we would like to take this opportunity to wish the scheme the best in the future. We will be working with the partners to make sure there is a smooth transition to the new arrangements.*

**Statement from PODS Parent Carer Forum:** It has been identified that the summer playscheme will need a new location due to significant maintenance work at its current site. We completely understand that this may be concerning for some families and we have asked for communication to be shared with families at the earliest possible time, hence this notice. We welcome any comments or feedback and assure you that these will be taken into consideration as part of the process of setting up the playscheme. Please contact [jayne@podstelford.org](mailto:jayne@podstelford.org) or 0777 534 2092

In the meantime, if you have any questions please get in touch with your Social Work Assistant or Social Worker

May 2023